

Claims

- Claim 1. A method for controlling release of an active agent other than an amino acid in a patient comprising orally administering to said patient an amino acid/active agent complex comprising a polypeptide covalently attached to the active agent through an alcohol, an amine or a carboxylic acid functionality wherein said active agent enzymatically releases into the bloodstream following oral administration.
- Claim 2. The method of Claim 1, wherein the polypeptide includes one or more of the twenty naturally occurring amino acids.
- Claim 3. The method of Claim 1, wherein said amino acid is glutamic acid, aspartic acid, arginine, asparagine, cysteine, lysine, threonine or serine.
- Claim 4. The method of Claim 1, wherein said amino acid is glutamic acid.
- Claim 5. The method of Claim 1, wherein said complex is in the form of an ingestible tablet, a capsule, or an oral suspension.
- Claim 6. The method of Claim 1, wherein said complex further comprises a microencapsulating agent.
- Claim 7. The method of Claim 1, wherein said complex further comprises an adjuvant covalently attached to said polypeptide.
- Claim 8. A method for preparing a composition comprising a polypeptide and an active agent covalently attached to said polypeptide comprising the steps of:
- (a) attaching the active agent to an amino acid to form an active agent/amino acid complex;
 - (b) forming an N-carboxyanhydride (NCA) from said active agent/amino acid complex; and
 - (c) polymerizing said N-carboxyanhydride (NCA).

- Claim 9. The method of Claim 8, wherein the active agent is attached to the side chain of said amino acid.
- Claim 10. The method of Claim 8, wherein the active agent is attached to the N-terminus of said amino acid.
- Claim 11. The method of Claim 8, wherein the active agent is attached to the C-terminus of said amino acid
- Claim 12. The method of Claim 8, further comprising the step of (d) granulating said complex.
- Claim 13. The method of Claim 8, wherein said amino acid is glutamic acid, aspartic acid, arginine, asparagine, cysteine, lysine, threonine or serine.
- Claim 14. The method of Claim 8, wherein said amino acid is glutamic acid.
- Claim 15. The method of Claim 8, wherein said amino acid is a synthetic amino acid with a pendant amine, alcohol, sulfhydryl, amide, urea, or acid functionality.